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January 21, 2016

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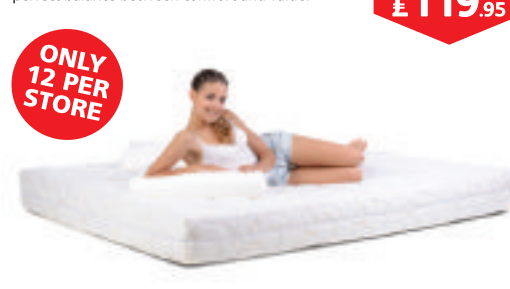
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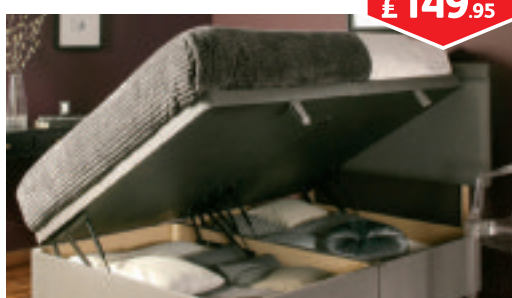
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Burden: Coun David Glasspool, cabinet member for treasury, said it is best the cuts fall on services

KT90916

Disappointed: Coun Kevin Davis is upset at the speed of the cuts



TAX HIKE AFTER SURPRISE CUTS

Services hit and 4% council tax increase after extra £2.6m Govt cuts

REPORTER
ELLIE CAMBRIDGE

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Kingston's council tax will rise by nearly 4 per cent from April after central Government funding to the borough was slashed again.

Councillors were left reeling by the Government's announcement at Christmas that it would cut unexpected extra millions from Kingston's revenue support grant, taking the total to some £20m over four years.

This year Kingston Council must make £14.8m of cuts to services to keep up.

The authority's costs will also rise in that period and it will begin charging residents extra for elderly and vulnerable people's care,

using a 2 per cent social care precept on council tax created by Government.

The total rise will therefore be 3.99 per cent, as Kingston has opted to raise core council tax by 1.99 per cent – the highest possible rise that does not require a vote.

Council leader Kevin Davis said: "The Government has got this wrong, but at short notice it is impossible to re-open the Treasury's financial coffers.

"We are an innovative administration that has found groundbreaking ways to reduce expenditure, but this additional £2.6m announcement at Christmas has been too much to find at short notice."

Councillor David Glasspool, cabinet member for treasury, said: "We have decided that it is best to let

the main burden of the £14.8m savings fall on services and balance this with the minimum increase in council tax possible under the Government's settlement."

Council tax has been frozen for the past two years, with the average charge for a Band D property remaining at £1,379.65. The area's levy was among the top 10 highest in the country for 2014-15, according to a comparison published by the Daily Telegraph.

Coun Davis added: "Am I upset that the amount we received from grants has been cut? I'm upset at the speed of how it's been cut."

"I think they could've been more helpful to us."

He said he has written twice to ministers in his capacity as council leader and once alongside the

council, to implore them to extend a consultation into the settlements, which ended last Friday.

Neither Coun Davis nor Coun Glasspool could say whether Kingston residents should expect a further council tax hike in April 2017.

Liberal Democrat opposition leader Coun Liz Green said the way Government calibrates revenue grants "penalises councils who get more of their increment for council tax."

But she added: "We made higher savings than they've had to make and they [the Conservatives] criticised us in the year that we increased council tax."

The Government is moving towards allowing councils to keep 100 per cent of their business rates, a policy slated for introduction in

2020 – though earlier is better, as far as Kingston Council is concerned.

Coun Davis said: "We've been the authority at the forefront of trying to retain business rates."

"If there is an opportunity for other London boroughs to come in with us then we are looking into that with them."

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CHARITY DINNER: Love Kingston needs volunteers to host a Valentine's dinner party. The event, called the Neighbourly Nosh, will take place on February 14 to help raise money for the five charity appeals the project backs in the borough. For further details email sorrel@londoncf.org.uk.

DRY FUN: Those participating in Dry January will not suffer at Surbiton Farmers' Market. Non-alcoholic drinks made using traditional pressing methods come from a stall by Ridgen Farm. For people planning a 'new year, new you' regime, a wide range of fruit and veg, and pies and pastries for a treat, are also available at the market on February 20, in Maple Road.

OVERHAUL PLANS: Cambridge Road estate residents have been invited to offer their views on regenerating the area. Kingston Council has launched a consultation, which includes an initial budget, into potential changes. Work is not expected to begin for several years. Visit kingston.gov.uk.

HELP WANTED: New Malden's farmers' market needs volunteers. Email nmmarket@outlook.com.

Schoolboy 'privileged' after supersonic car design win



'It was amazing': Aleksander Squire designed the key for Bloodhound SSC

A SCHOOLBOY with his eye on a career in engineering has won a national competition.

Aleksander Squire designed the key to the world's fastest car – Bloodhound SSC.

The 13-year-old, who goes to school in Chertsey, was part of a project to build a supersonic car to break the world land speed record.

Upon finding out he had won last month, Aleksander, from Thames Ditton, said: "It was amazing. I could not really believe it at first."

"We got a phone call, but we missed it. So, we called back and they said I had won. It was really exciting."

"I feel privileged because I'm one of the first people who isn't part of the crew to see the actual car, which is amazing. I think they have done a very good job."

His design was one of two winning entries chosen from hundreds.

The Bloodhound team's goal is to match or exceed 1,000mph using a jet engine and rocket engine combination. It will test the car in South Africa.

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Businesses eye increased footfall after Tower development

New flats and shops approved for Tolworth

REPORTER

ELLIE CAMBRIDGE

ellie.cambridge@london.newsquest.co.uk



PLANS to quintuple the number of towers on the Tolworth Tower site have been approved, heralding one of the first major redevelopments the area has seen for years.

Developer CNM Estates' designs for four blocks of flats and shops in Broadway were given the green light on Tuesday last week.

The project was the second to face the vote after the approval of a new Premier Inn in Kingston Road last October, with applications for Lidl's new headquarters and the former Toby Jug site sure to follow in the coming years.

The decision was met with stunned silence at Guildhall. Objector Michael Hope said he was "appalled, but not surprised".

Conservative councillor Ian George, who actively campaigned with councillors Chris Hayes and Richard Hudson against the plans for 308 homes, plus serviced apartments and shops, said his Tory colleagues who waved them through "have got a lot of questions to answer".

CNM chairman Wahid Samady said work had already started



Vision: How the towers could look

on the project. He said: "All of those people who have attended, whether we have agreed or disagreed with each other, we all care about Tolworth."

"The future of Tolworth is driven by bringing consumer spending to Tolworth so we can keep the Broadway."

Cllr Hudson said the decision was "a terrible outcome for residents". He added: "The parking and traffic issues alone will create gridlock and pollution in the entire area."

Anna Guy, 48, assistant manager at PMG Schoolwear in

Broadway, said: "Tolworth needs something because at the moment there's nothing here."

James Robertson-Milligan, co-founder of the Broadway community group, said: "Tolworth needs a boost and bringing up to date, otherwise it's just going to become a dumping ground and a barren concrete waste site."

Mustafa Resa, of State Express Dry Cleaners, said: "It is good that they are bringing investment to the area, but maybe it is the wrong approach making two tall towers."

Council leader Kevin Davis said: "Now starts the regeneration of Tolworth, but they have got a huge responsibility to work with residents to help them understand what it is they are doing."

Poopalasingham Partheepan, manager of Surrey Pawnbrokers, said: "If it is making affordable homes, it's good for the people."

"For our business, the footfall will increase and it will help others in the Broadway."

The four new blocks will contain 10 affordable units.

CNM has agreed to pay Kingston Council £3m to fund construction of affordable homes elsewhere, but the location and number of the extra units are not yet known.

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Calls may be monitored for training purposes

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Old Post Office plan revised again

REPORTER

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DEVELOPERS have submitted revised plans for a controversial new tower block in Kingston town centre for the third time.

Initial ideas for retail and community spaces plus a 21-storey tower block at the Ashdown Road car park site went on display in July 2014.

After public protests this was scaled down to 19 storeys before coming down to 16 in a third attempt to appease residents. The latest plans still show the highest tower at 16 storeys, but a bookend building has been reduced from 12 storeys to eight and "Kingston-style stone banding" has been added, St George said.

The company withdrew its third application in December after complaints about it not "fitting in with the character" of the town.

A St George spokesman said: "The amendments will improve the setting of the listed buildings and ensure the development better responds to Kingston, and reflects the character of local buildings. If approved, it will transform an unloved site in the heart of Kingston."

If built the site would include 30,000 sq ft of shops and restaurants, 319 homes, of which 47 would be affordable, 2,700 sq ft of community space and half an acre of public gardens.

On January 13 St George met with the Kingston Residents Alliance (KRA), formed of 20 residents' associations which oppose what they



Revised: St George has submitted another set of plans for the old Post Office site

call overdevelopment. KRA member Tony Lancaster said in a Facebook post: "Some improvements to the building between the heritage assets. Lower, browner and built

with London stocks. The 16-storey one – another pointless iteration of the same awful design. St George has invited us to go meet the design team."

Mediha Boran added: "[St George] addressed three objection points and designs improved."

Councillors will vote on the plans on February 25.

GOOD SIGN: A landmark sign provided to Legoland Windsor by a Kingston signage business has won Fastsigns' project of the year award. Beating 18 other Fastsigns outlets, the Ewell Road branch also won an achievement award for high sales in the last year.

MOSQUE PLAN: Kingston Mosque hopes to extend its headquarters in East Road. The building's administration has asked Kingston Council for permission to add a single storey.

SHARING STORIES: Members of the borough's south Asian community will share their migration stories. The Talking Objects Sharing Stories display in Kingston Museum explores how 20 immigrants came to live in Kingston and will run from February 5 until April 9.

YOUTH GAMES: Entries are open for Kingston athletes to compete in the London Youth Games. Kingston Council has appealed for athletes between the ages of 11 and 18 to sign up for the games, which take place at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre in July. The deadline for applicants is Friday, March 18. Visit kingston.gov.uk.

YOUR POUND: The people behind the Kingston Pound project, a currency designed to keep money flowing within the borough's independent business network, are asking for feedback. To take part visit surveymonkey.com/r/DFZG52C.

EXTRA PENNY: Shoppers will have to spend an extra penny on their purchases as the borough's 99p stores convert to Poundland. The shops in Victoria Road, Surbiton, and Eden Walk, Kingston, will be converted by March.

HEALTH WORKSHOPS: Hook Library is running a series of free health and wellbeing workshops until February 3. To book, email hook.library@kingston.gov.uk.

Cops probe 'criminal damage to a horse' after paint attack

DETECTIVES have launched an investigation into "criminal damage to a horse" after a Chessington stables owner found his animals spray-painted and dirty syringes left in his caravan.

John Williams, owner of Rushett Stables, in Chessington, arrived there earlier this month to find vandals had tagged not only his horses, but also his caravan.

The caravan, which has been on the site since before Mr Williams moved there about eight years ago, was painted with the words "pikey", "scum" and "not wanted here".

The 31-year-old traveller said: "We came out to find there were loads of beer cans and needles, and the horses were spray-painted."

"I am just worried now for the welfare of my horses – what's going to happen to them next?"

Mr Williams first rented the Leatherhead Road stables when he moved with his grandfather, but decided to buy the property when it came up for sale in 2014.

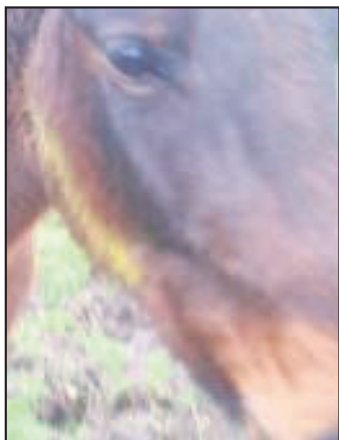
He asked Kingston Council for permission to upgrade the stables, but was told by the authority it had been inundated with complaints.

Since then he said he has had persistent problems with people vandalising the caravan, though this is the first time people have targeted his horses.

He added: "Some people clearly did not want us to have it. I am a traveller, but I live in a house."

"The caravan has been there for about 15 years. It has got to be dumped, to be honest with you."

"We've had the police down on several occasions and they were quite shocked



Attack: A horse covered in paint

with it all.

"There are no CCTV cameras on the property."

According to Mr Williams, police officers have visited the stables over the course of the last year as vandalism has worsened, but have been unable to catch the trespassers.

In last week's break-in, the windows of the caravan were smashed and beer cans and used syringes left inside.

A Kingston police spokesman said: "We are currently investigating this incident, which is classified as criminal damage to a horse. We would urge anyone with information to call 101."

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Clinic on the move

THE part-closure of a Hook GP surgery looks set to go ahead with a limited service moving to Surbiton Health Centre.

Kingston Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) wants to move the pseudo-walk-in clinic from Gosbury Hill to the Ewell Road centre, after governing body members said the service was not being used properly.

The appointment-based walk-in clinic runs seven days a week between 8am and 8pm, serving the entire borough.

Proposals would cut the service to 36 hours between Saturday and Monday. About 400 people responded to a CCG consultation on the changes, which ended in November.

Governing body chairman Dr Naz Jivani said: "This centre serves the entire borough and there will always be one somewhere in Kingston."

The consultation was criticised by residents for being "confusing" and "misleading" at the time.

Surbiton staff raised concerns about issues such as limited parking, potential job losses for weekend staff and the possibility that staff will be expected to work seven days a week.

'He is the kindest, nicest and most generous child' says mum after four-year ordeal

Thomas's bravery after four ops

REPORTER

JON MITCHELL

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A NEW Malden mum has spoken of how she was "close to breaking point" after watching her son go through four major heart operations.

Rebecca Willis gave birth to her son Thomas in October 2011, only to find he had a rare and complex heart abnormality and had to be immediately transferred to Great Ormond Street Hospital for open-heart surgery.

Over the next four years, Thomas would undergo three more operations – a second at just three weeks old which he barely survived – with his final surgery in January 2015.

Ms Willis said: "Living in the hospital and being by your child's bedside 24/7 is enormously stressful and is one of the most anxious experiences a parent can have."

"In a particularly bad period, on a ward full of newborn babies, I didn't sleep for three days and was close to breaking point."

During his final operation Thomas' one-year-old sister Ruby fell ill, putting further strain on Ms Willis and her now ex-husband Daniel to



All smiles: Guests raised more than £300 for the Sick Children's Trust when Thomas and little sister Ruby were christened

look after Thomas.

The family temporarily moved to Great Ormond Street Hospital's Rainbow House, which provides free accommodation for families of seriously sick children and is run by the Sick Children's Trust.

Ms Willis added: "He was now three years old and able to clearly articulate his feel-

ings about his experience in hospital. We were dreading it."

"We were expecting I would have to care for Thomas entirely on my own, through the operation and intensive care while his dad stayed at home with Ruby, as the hospital's own accommodation couldn't take siblings."

After his fourth opera-

tion, Thomas was finally christened alongside his sister in June last year, where guests donated to the Sick Children's Trust rather than bringing gifts. In total, they raised £308. Thomas quickly recovered from his operation and is now back in nursery, where his mother says he has been given a new lease of life. She said: "It was as if he'd

never been away. He's put all the trauma of the operation and hospital behind him and speaks of it very matter-of-factly. He's very proud of his scar and shows it off at the first opportunity. His classmates are very impressed and think he's extremely brave. He is the kindest, nicest and most generous child we know."

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Jasper's Tintin lookalike win



Lookalike: Jasper bears a striking resemblance to cartoon pooch Snowy

A FAMOUS lookalike is walking the streets of Surbiton in the form of cartoon character Tintin's dog Snowy.

Wire hair fox terrier Jasper was awarded the lookalike prize at Somerset House last week after his owner Roger Bines, pictured with Jasper, of Arlington Road, Surbiton, noticed a startling similarity between Jas-

per and the beloved cartoon canine.

He said: "I retired from full-time employment last January after leading a hectic life working on Formula 1 and needed a project to keep me busy."

"Jasper has certainly done his best to fulfil my wishes."

"He loves people, especially children, and can be very mischievous

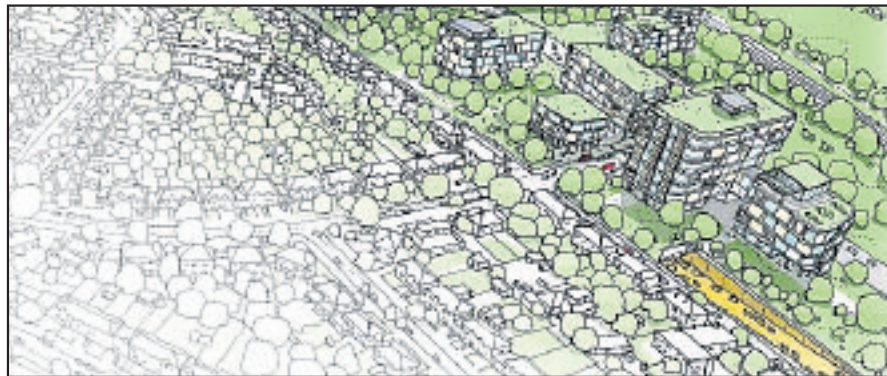
when my back is turned.

"My wife and I thought that the competition was a great idea."

"We did not think for one minute that Jasper had a chance of winning."

The competition was run alongside Somerset House's Masterpiece Spotlight Tours, an exhibition exploring the author's art.

Transport for London's plans for underpass are not yet final



Going deeper underground: An artist's impression of how a Tolworth tunnel might look

Zac: I back a Tolworth tunnel to beat traffic

REPORTER

JON MITCHELL

jonathan.mitchell@london.newsquest.co.uk



LONDON mayoral candidate Zac Goldsmith has backed plans to convert the A3 at Tolworth into an underground tunnel, while rival Sadiq Khan promised to pursue the proposal only if it offers "good value for money".

Plans first surfaced to take the A3 – one of London's busiest commuter routes – underground when Boris Johnson visited Boston last year and suggested the move would free up land for development and tackle pollution.

With Mr Johnson's replacement due to be elected in May, Conservative candidate Mr Gold-

smith said he is "committed to finding a cost-effective way to deliver it".

He said: "I am particularly concerned about air pollution levels around the Tolworth area, and I'm pleased that Transport for London (TfL) is looking at building a tunnel in Tolworth to help ease congestion."

The plans are based on the Big Dig project in Boston, where a major interstate highway was sunk to make a 3.5-mile underground tunnel.

Concept drawings show the proposed tunnel in Tolworth would extend from the roundabout at Tolworth Tower to beyond Princes Avenue, including the site recently sold by Tesco to property developer Meyer Bergman.

Labour's mayoral candidate Sadiq Khan said: "Air pollution is a blight on the people of London and something that must be addressed. If a proposal doesn't give good value for money then it won't happen."

TfL said in February 2015 it would draw up more detailed plans with Kingston Council and report back to the mayor's office in May of that year, including with a funding plan.

A spokesman for the Mayor of London could not confirm when the proposals would be finalised.

Kingston and Surbiton MP James Berry said: "In my opinion the plans aren't ambitious enough."

"I would like to see the whole of the A3 tunnelled through the borough."

Community centre hit by two leaks in a week



Damage: Councillor Shiraz Mirza surveys the aftermath of the leak

WATER pipes burst twice within a week, flooding a Norbiton community hall.

Water filled the Shiraz Mirza

community hall and its car park, in Coombe Road, last week and returned over the weekend, forcing the cancellation of events.

Councillor Shiraz Mirza said: "The pipe opened up again. It started up so the water's everywhere again."

"We've got to replace everything, it will take almost two weeks for the concrete to dry out."

"We are doing whatever we can to maximise the drying."

Michael Ward, who looks after the building, said: "We can't find any way of turning it off. It bubbled up through our floor and filled the hall with water. It is used by the local community exclusively. It's disappointing for many people."

Thames Water helped with repairs despite the centre being on land not part of their network. Coun Mirza hopes to recruit them again to fix the second leak.

Thinking well with mental health tours

A PERSONAL trainer from Berrylands has launched a mental health initiative with the man he saved from suicide, and the duo will tour schools to ease stigma.

It marks the eight-year anniversary of the moment Neil Laybourn stopped by as Jonny Benjamin prepared to take his life on Waterloo Bridge in 2008.

He talked Mr Benjamin down and the pair have since become friends, and now campaigners.

The 33-year-old Berrylands man, who runs a gym in central London, was tracked down six years later after a campaign to find him took off online.

Their initiative, Think Well, includes workshops for children and confronts taboos surrounding mental health. It launched on January 13.

Mr Benjamin was 20 at the time he almost took his life. He has a form of schizophrenia and

also now works with Rethink Mental Illness, visiting prisons, schools and hospitals.

Mr Laybourn told the Surrey Comet after he and Mr Benjamin reunited: "I could not believe it when I saw the campaign. I got in touch straight away."

"I was so pleased to see how well Jonny was doing. I had thought about him over the years and had always hoped he was OK."

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Consulting on centre closures

KINGSTON Council has launched a consultation into the running of youth services after it emerged that half the borough's youth clubs are at risk of closure.

Last month it was revealed the council was considering closing four of the borough's eight youth clubs – including the 30-year-old Searchlight Community Centre.

The council said the proposals will “modernise the way we deliver youth work”. The centres, of which only Searchlight has been named so far, are expected to close in March.

Youth services in the borough are

run by community interest company Achieving for Children (AfC), which revealed an overspend of £1.5m last year, leaving the company with £4m of cuts to make over the next two years.

The consultation states: “In the proposed changes, AfC will deliver youth work that responds to the needs of our most vulnerable young people and has also identified opportunities that enable youth work to take place in a broader range of settings.”

The consultation closes on Thursday, February 11. To take part visit kingston.gov.uk.

Hospital has almost halved nurse vacancy rate, boss claims

Director says unfilled job stats ‘out of date’



Hitting back: Duncan Burton, left

REPORTER

JON MITCHELL

jonathan.mitchell@london.newsguest.co.uk

KINGSTON Hospital has hit back at the country's leading nursing union after figures made headlines showing a fifth of its nursing jobs were unfilled.

The hospital's director of nursing, Duncan Burton, said the data, released under the Freedom of Information Act, was “very out of date”.

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) said 192 nurses were missing from the hospital's staff roster last summer.

Mr Burton said: “The figures used by the RCN are very out of date and unfortunately no context has been provided.

“Our vacancy rate increased last year as a result of investing in more nurses for accident and

emergency, the intensive care unit, our acute admissions unit and one of our medical wards.

“These posts all had to be recruited to over the last six months, and due to the shortage of nurses in the UK, we have had to recruit internationally, and this takes a bit longer.

“As of December 2015 our nurse vacancy level is at 11 per cent, and we have recruited a further 106 nurses who will be starting with us over the next few months.”

The RCN filed Freedom of Information requests with hospitals across London which found that up to 30 per cent of nursing posts were vacant in some areas.

It blamed budget cuts and pay freezes for the lack of new recruits. South West London and St George's mental health trust, which serves Kingston, Richmond, Sutton, Merton and

Wandsworth, was revealed to have had a 30 per cent vacancy rate – meaning 159 nurses.

Interim nursing director Mandy Stevens said: “There is a well-recognised system-wide issue in the recruitment of mental health nurses across the country, with increased demand in London, and we have an assertive recruitment campaign to attract more nurses.

“Our vacancy rate for nurses in December 2015 was 26 per cent and we are working hard to reduce this further still.”

RCN London regional director Bernell Bussue said: “London faces a critical shortage of registered nursing staff.

“The problem is partly down to short-sighted workforce planning which saw training posts cut in the past. There aren't enough home-grown nurses coming through the system.”

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30-year veteran retires



Retiring: Ch Insp Bill Heasman with a high-conviction-rate award

ONE of Kingston's top cops has retired after 30 years of service.

Chief Inspector Bill Heasman joined Kingston police five years ago, having served in communities including Tooting and Hammersmith. He hung up his uniform for the final time at Kingston police station on Fri-

day, January 8.

In a video posted online he said: “It has been fantastic, every minute of it. I just wanted to say a big thank-you to everyone in Kingston, internally, externally, the community, everybody for making my past five years as good as the first.”

Plots of land sold for £2m

THE shocking reality of increasing land prices in Kingston hit home last month when two small plots valued at £390,000 sold for nearly £2m.

The 0.18 acre and 0.44 acre sites were valued at £115,000 and £275,000 by auction company Saville's, which sold the land on behalf of Thames Water at the end of last year.

Saville's would not say exactly where the land was, describing it only as a “prime location” close to the university and town centre.

Neither piece of land has planning permission for any kind of development.

The company said a fierce bidding war for both pieces of land was behind the hugely inflated price tags.



To let: The Hook Road landmark closed over New Year after a period of speculation

Cap in Hand up for rent

THE new owners of the Cap in Hand plan to reboot it as a bar or restaurant if a leaseholder can come up with more than £100,000 a year in rent.

Touted as holding a "prominent position" between Tolworth and Hinchley Wood, those overseeing the letting advertisement are offering a 10 to 15-year lease.

Commercial property company Jenkins Law is advertising the 1930s building as a bar or restaurant but have said "alternative uses may be considered subject to planning".

Formerly part of the JD Wetherspoons chain, last year the Hook favourite was sold on to Mendoza Limited, a company based in the Isle of Man. Mendoza remained quiet on the future use of the building when the sale was confirmed, sparking concerns a flat complex could be proposed.

The new owners of the pub wasted no time clearing out the building. Furniture was removed and stacked in skips in the week following closure. Signs have been taken down and the windows are now covered in whitewash.

CYCLE PROJECT: Residents have until February 5 to pledge their support to the borough's Go Cycle campaign. The project, which includes Kingston's £33m mini-Holland scheme, aims to improve and encourage cycling in the borough. To give your feedback on cycling facilities and support the campaign visit kingston.gov.uk/consultations

VALENTINE RUN: Surbiton joggers can celebrate Valentine's Day this year with a 10k run. Entries have opened for Surbiton's annual Valentine's run, which for the first time will take place on Valentine's Day itself and will cost £15 for unaffiliated runners. Visit 26point2.co.uk/valentines10k

SPEAK NOW: A Surbiton speaking club welcomed Kingston mayor Roy Arora for its first meeting of the year. Surbiton Speakers is part of non-profit organisation Toastmasters International, and specialises in teaching residents the art of eloquence. The club meets in St Andrew's Church, Maple Road, on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7.15pm. Visit toastmasterclub.org

MARTIAL ART: Growing demand at a New Malden martial arts academy is forcing it to move from the area. The School of Korean Martial Arts, based in Kingston Road, New Malden, specialises in teaching the art of Hapkido, with the help of black belt Daeman Sun. The school was founded in Durham in 1998. Visit skma.co.uk

Labour amendment would have forced landlords to ensure properties were fit to live in MP defends 'habitable homes' vote

REPORTER
RACHAEL BURFORD
rachael.burford@london.newsquest.co.uk



MP James Berry has defended his vote against a proposal that would have forced landlords to make sure the homes they rent out are 'fit for human habitation'.

Mr Berry, who is a private landlord himself, voted against amendment 52 of the Housing Bill that would have placed a duty on landlords to

"ensure that their properties are fit for habitation when let and remain fit during the course of the tenancy."

The Labour amendment was defeated by 312 votes to 219.

Mr Berry said the amendment was meaningless because councils already have the power to tackle landlords who rent out uninhabitable properties.

He said: "The fact that my wife and I rent out the house we used to live in had no bear-

ing on my vote. It is not in an uninhabitable condition.

"About 40 per cent of my constituency casework relates to housing. Where a constituent is living in a property that is uninhabitable I refer it to the council straight away and the council usually takes action.

"This bill includes a number of measures to protect tenants which include banning orders for the worst landlords and letting agents, and significantly increasing

councils' powers to fine landlords. I support a register of all landlords and letting agents so that good and bad landlords can easily be identified by councils' potential tenants."

Mr Berry added he believed Kingston Council would still be equipped to tackle dodgy landlords despite huge government cuts to local authorities.

He said: "I don't want us to rely on central government funding and therefore be vul-

nerable to cuts. I want us to retain our business rates and take control of our own destiny. I'm pushing for us to be a pilot borough."

Shadow housing minister Teresa Pearce said before the vote: "Many landlords go out of their way to ensure that even the slightest safety hazard is sorted quickly. So it is even more distressing when we see reports of homes which are frankly unfit for human habitation being let, often at obscene prices."



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House price rise eclipses a year’s season ticket cost in days

First-time buyers are in ‘a horrible situation’

REPORTER
ELLIE CAMBRIDGE
ellie.cambridge@london.newsquest.co.uk

SURBITON commuters could pay off the cost of their annual rail season tickets in just 11 days if they own a home in the town, according to a property website.

But a rise of nearly £160 per day on the district’s property prices is bad news for those who “desperately want to buy” in the area, estate agents added.

House prices are rising so quickly that some in the commuter belt could make back the cost of an annual rail season ticket in a matter of days, and Surbiton is top of the list, according to Zoopla. A year’s travel costs some £1,800.

But, while Surbitonians who commute into Waterloo might be thrilled at the news, first-time buyers and young families must make ever more strenuous efforts to get onto the property ladder.

Nearby Esher saw a rise of £114.03 in property value per day in 2015, while the value of a Leatherhead jumped by £95.66 per day, Zoopla said.



In the money: Westfield Road

Michelle Hutchings, an estate agent from Berrylands Residential, said: “First-time buyers don’t stand much of a chance.

“Prices are going up, yes, because of the market, but also because of the shortage.”

She said she believed people who own property in Surbiton can wait to sell because they know the mark-up will be so large. That means even if first-time buyers can afford a home in the area, they will probably have few options due to lack of supply.

She said: “You see people who desperately want to buy and it’s a horrible situation for people to be in.”

Renters also suffer as the increase in prices is mirrored in a rise in rent. A Zoopla spokesman said: “As we’d expect, properties in key commuting areas continue to be in demand for buyers in competitive markets.”



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AWESOME ACADEMY



From left to right: Southborough students (in Corinthian-Casuals kit) Ryan Murphy, Joseph Launder, and Tyrell Muchina, Corinthian-Casuals FC Coach Wayne Finnie, Chairman of Corinthian-Casuals FC Brian Vandervilt, Headteacher of Southborough Niall Smith, Club Development Manager and Academy Director of London Scottish Rugby Club Corne duRand, Southborough students (in London Scottish kit) Jonny Davies, Sammy Taylor and Wayne Damoo.

Southborough Sixth Form launches a Football Academy and a Rugby Academy where players will get the best of both worlds in terms of their training and education

Last week, Headteacher of Southborough High School Niall Smith welcomed Chairman of Corinthian-Casuals Football Club Brian Vandervilt, Coach Wayne Finnie and Club Development Manager and Academy Director of London Scottish Rugby Football Club Corne duRand to the school to seal an exciting partnership with its' Sixth Form where, finally, talented footballers and rugby players can have the best of both worlds. Great coaching and development at a professional club, combined with superb academic learning at Southborough Sixth Form.

Mr Smith commented: "In the past, talented football and rugby players had to decide to take one of two routes at the age of 16: either that of a Sports Academy, with a 'sketchy' educational package attached, or they had to put their sporting ambitions to one side and choose full time education at a Sixth Form or college – with no football or rugby coaching in sight. Our new Sixth Form partnership with two such highly respected clubs will change all that for the better."

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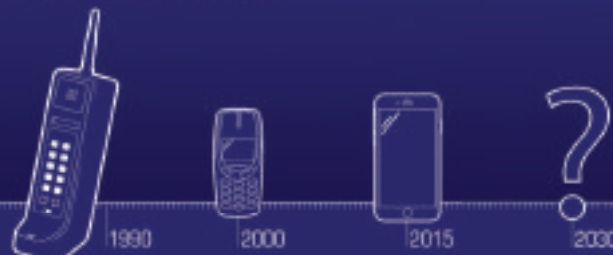
Youth unemployment is three times the average national rate. Which isn't surprising when a staggering 88% of businesses think school leavers are unprepared for the workplace. "Schools just aren't doing enough to prepare students to be employable or to thrive in the world of world," says Jay Lockwood, Principal Designate of Logic Studio School, which is opening in Feltham this September to offer a totally different kind of education to students aged 14-19.

"There is a real need for a new, revolutionary approach to education which, alongside offering a great education and excellent results, also provides students with the skills and

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Rugby Academy Launch & Trials

Wednesday 24 February 6.30pm start

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ONLINE OPINION

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Kingston police chief inspector retires after 'an absolute blast' serving the borough

I've worked with the police service for a long time and worked with Kingston police for what seems longer than I care to remember. During this time a lot of officers have passed through. They have included senior officers and some badged as partnership officers. Chief Insp Bill Heasman is top of the tree for partnership officers in London because he epitomised the very high standard in policing and was a real star!

JOHN AZAH

Should TfL run all south London train services?

If we were starting from scratch would anyone think that having a rag-bag of companies running a, hopefully, integrated service would be a good idea?

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If complaining about third party comments on our website articles, you should use the 'report this post' function online next to the comment.

Remembering Bowie's gig at Tolworth pub

IT was a long time ago, but I remember it as one of the most memorable evenings of my teenage years.

The Toby Jug was an ugly-looking place, but in its defence, during the 1970s it hosted fantastic weekly gigs. The bands were well-known to the readers of the NME and the other weekly music journals whose names I cannot recall.

The admission charge must have been very reasonable as my only income was a Saturday job at Boots, Sutton, which paid £1.66 for working from 8.45am to 6pm.

This was just sufficient to buy LPs, with the generous Boots staff discount, and in 1971 I bought the amazingly different Hunky Dory.

The Toby Jug gig was held in a side room. I, with my school friend Helen, would have arrived at opening time, bought our halves of lager, which lasted the evening, and been first in guaranteeing a place at the front, standing right up at the dais located at the corner of the room.

The size of the audience was probably more than 150, but it was certainly a small room.

The Bowies had released a photo of themselves in the early 1970s. They were dressed similarly, but Angie had the short hair while David's was long.

From the perspective of today's social media, it is difficult to imagine how seldom faces were seen, and images were easier to control.

The band arrived on stage and then Ziggy Stardust. The reaction? Was this David Bowie? Could it be David Bowie? Or was David Bowie having a joke and he was the one that looked like the person in the aforementioned photo playing guitar?

It was baffling. Totally original. Almost shocking. The music, the presentation, his presence were sensational. We all knew that this was the beginning of something very special.

ANNE BARCLAY
Via email

Borough View



David Foy snapped this shot of Surbiton station. To see your photo featured in Borough View, email it with details of where you took it to rachael.burford@london.newsquest.co.uk.

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LYNN GRADWELL
Barnardo's London

Shop frenzy

FATHER MARTIN Hislop complains (Your Say, January 14) about the lack of council attention to solve traffic jams at what he described as the "festive season shopping frenzy", and most of us simply call "Christmas".

He says KingstonFirst and

retailers do not force the highway authorities to solve the traffic problems; he forgets that KingstonFirst and the retailers such as Bentalls and John Lewis significantly contribute to the traffic jams.

They, together with the council, have provided 7,000 car parking spaces and actively encourage shoppers and commuters to drive to Kingston town centre.

Unfortunately the changes have tended to make things worse. Since 2000 the council has built the new 700-space Seven Kings car park and handed it over to the Bentall Centre to run.

It has also, at great expense, widened Kingston bridge to allow more traffic to pour into

and through the town. Some people also lament the cutting of the park-and-ride services that used to run in November and December.

Kingston's one-way system is treated as a race track by many drivers, which makes collisions and therefore jams more likely, increases air-pollution and makes crossing it or walking beside it unpleasant.

If Fr Hislop wants to take up a cause it should be to support 20mph speed limits for the whole of the borough.

This would be good for all residents of the borough, reduce health-damaging pollution and make the borough safer and more pleasant.

STEVE COCHRAN
Latchmere Lane

Do not try to excuse litter

Editor Andrew Parkes has a number of thoughts every week, here are just five of them

5 THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK...

1. AN EXCUSE I heard this week made my blood boil. Some thoughtless moron actually had the audacity to claim he was justified to drop litter because he didn't think there were enough bins. I bet he was lying, but I don't care if there wasn't a single bin within 100 miles, it's still not an excuse. And just so we're clear, a cigarette butt does count as litter – you're perfectly entitled to indulge in this filthy habit, but it should not be inflicted upon others.

2. The race to become London Mayor is really hotting up. I'm not claiming a favourite but the BackZac campaign is certainly the most vociferous. The trouble is, every time

I receive an email or alert from BackZac I can't help feeling the word 'crack' is missing from the title, and I'm not talking about the class A drug. As I write this yet another BackZac email has just plopped into my inbox.

3. As we move another week deeper into 2016 I suspect most of our resolutions have already slipped. But for some reason the new year has seen me acquire new tastes – more specifically, new musical tastes. If you haven't heard Elle King yet then you really should. Even more surprising is that,

from nowhere, I've rediscovered the Stone Roses. I can't believe I didn't fully appreciate their genius previously.



4. I would like to place on record my thanks to Juliet Chaplin for her very sound medical advice. However, I've now found that I get all the relief I need from Darcy Bussell. Or, to be more specific, from Darcy's Pilates DVD. I know, I know. I would have pooh-poohed it too, but having tried it I am 100 per cent converted. Pilates is the best thing for a dodgy back and any sufferers really should try it.

5. Finally, I have just heard a story about a council asphaltting over grass verges because

it is fed up with the constant dog fouling. Well, let me tell you, the answer to dog poo is not to asphalt every green space. The much better, more sensible solution is to fine and shame dog owners to such an extent they are dissuaded from ever committing the same crime again. I thought problems with dog poo were a thing of the past.

Send in your 5THOUGHTS by email to aparkes@london.newsquest.co.uk.

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Malvern Hills, Wye Valley and Ragley Hall

Monday 18 April

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Yorkshire Coast and Moors

Monday 18 April

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Sunday 22 May/24 July

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Caernarfon and Snowdonia

Monday 30 May/18 July/5 Sept

Exploring the beautiful scenery of Snowdonia with visits to Portmeirion and Bodnant.



Oban, Tobermory and the 'Jacobite'

Wednesday 1 June

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Fridays 15 and 29 April

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Romantic Rhine Valley and Boppard

Mon 7 March, Sundays 12 June and 11 September

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Sunday 12 June

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Table-topping school appoints its first male headteacher

Historic appointment for Tiffin Girls' School

REPORTER

ELLIE CAMBRIDGE

ellie.cambridge@london.newsquest.co.uk



TIFFIN Girls' School has appointed its first male headteacher in its 135-year history.

The Richmond Road school, which regularly logs the best exam results in the borough, has taken on Ian Keary as head from January 4.

He said: "It is a great privilege to be joining such a vibrant and successful community at one of the leading state schools in the country."

"I support wholeheartedly the governors' aims to do more to encourage local applications from academically able girls, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds."

"I am looking forward to developing our relationships with primary schools in the local community in support of this initiative."

The school, which is currently home to 996 girls aged between 11 and 18, confirmed he is the first male headteacher in more than a century.



A small step for a man: Ian Keary is the Tiffin Girls' new headteacher

He joins the school having been assistant headteacher at Tiffin School, and head of school at Glyn School in Ewell.

Mr Keary trained at the West London Institute of Higher Education and recently obtained a national qualification for headship.

Amy Cavilla took over as acting head for two terms after Vanessa Ward stepped down at the

end of the 2015 spring term.

The motto of the school is sapere aude, dare to be wise, and in his welcome to pupils, staff and parents Mr Keary said the school is "a happy and vibrant community where the girls take centre stage".

Mr Keary joins the school ahead of an expansion to six forms of entry for 180 students in September 2016.



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THE MISSISSIPPI SWAMP DOGS

THIS WEEK'S REASONS TO GO OUT

MUSIC Joshua Radin at Clapham Grand on Monday. The critically acclaimed singer, whose second album Simple Times reached the UK top 10, brings his show to Clapham. For more information, go to claphamgrand.com.

THEATRE Last of the Summer Wine at the Cryer, Carshalton, until Saturday. The gentle TV sitcom is adapted for the

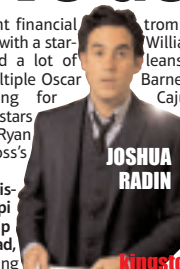
stage to give Foggy, Clegg and Compo one last outing. Tickets cost £12.50. For further information visit suttontheatres.co.uk.

ART Life Drawing at Matthew's Yard, Croydon, on Sunday. Join in a casual untutored group to flex your creative muscles at this two-hour session. Over 18s only. Admission costs £10. Go to descartes.org.

FILM The Big Short (15), out Friday. Director Adam McKay (Anchor-

man) brings the recent financial crisis to the big screen with a star-studded comedy (and a lot of anger) that led to multiple Oscar nominations, including for Christian Bale. With co-stars Steve Carell, Brad Pitt, Ryan Gosling and New Cross's Rafe Spall.

MUSIC The Mississippi Swamp Dogs at The Bull's Head, Barnes, on Friday. Swing



JOSHUA RADIN

trombonist and singer Jeff Williams brings his New Orleans-influenced five-piece to Barnes for a night of rocking Cajun-Funk, blues, latin and soul shuffle. Tickets cost £10 in advance or £12 on the door. For more information and to book tickets, go to musicglue.com.

MORE ONLINE kingstonguardian.co.uk/vibe



Michael Bisping and Anderson Silva will battle it out at UFC Fight Night at the O2 next month. Both fighters talk to **JIM PALMER** about how much they're looking forward to this mouth-watering encounter.

Greenwich will host the showdown between arguably the greatest mixed martial arts fighter of all time and Britain's biggest name in the sport – and there will be bad blood in the octagon.

The Ultimate Fighting Championship returns to the O2 next month with 10 British fighters on the card.

Brazilian legend Anderson Silva headlines in a fight against Britain's most famous UFC fighter Michael Bisping, who is ranked seventh in the world. It is a bout many neutrals have been keen to see for years.

Silva was world middleweight champion between 2006 and 2013

and had a record run of 16 fights undefeated but latterly his career has not been so rosy.

First he lost his title to Chris Weidman and then, in the rematch, sustained a horrific broken leg that required immediate surgery to put a rod in his shin.

He returned with a win against Nick Diaz in January 2015 but was subsequently banned after failing drugs tests, which he claimed was the result of a contaminated sexual enhancement drug.

The bout on February 27 will mark his comeback and in the longer term he is targeting the return of his world championship.

Bisping stands in his way and said anyone who used performance enhancing drugs was a 'coward'.

The 36-year-old former winner of The Ultimate Fighter and a Cage Rage champion, said: "We are all chasing a dream and all fighters dream of being the champion but you have got to do it through hard work and determination."

"The fact of the matter is Anderson Silva tested positive for not one, not two but three banned substances. Whilst I respect him as a fighter, I have got to say I lost a lot of respect for him over that."

"To call yourself a martial artist and to take performance enhancing

drugs is biggest contradiction you could ever make and, to be honest, he should be ashamed of himself."

Bisping vowed not to fight anyone who had previously failed a drugs test but was too tempted by the potential head-to-head with Silva.

He said: "Regardless of what happened, he is still Anderson Silva and it is a bucket list fight. He is somebody I always wanted to face."

Silva, 40, said: "I don't feel that I have to prove anything to anyone as far as what I have

done in fighting. I have been doing this since I was a kid, eight years old.

"I am motivated to follow my dream. I am ready to be tested any time. You guys can test me as much as you guys like. I committed an error. I took a substance that was contaminated."

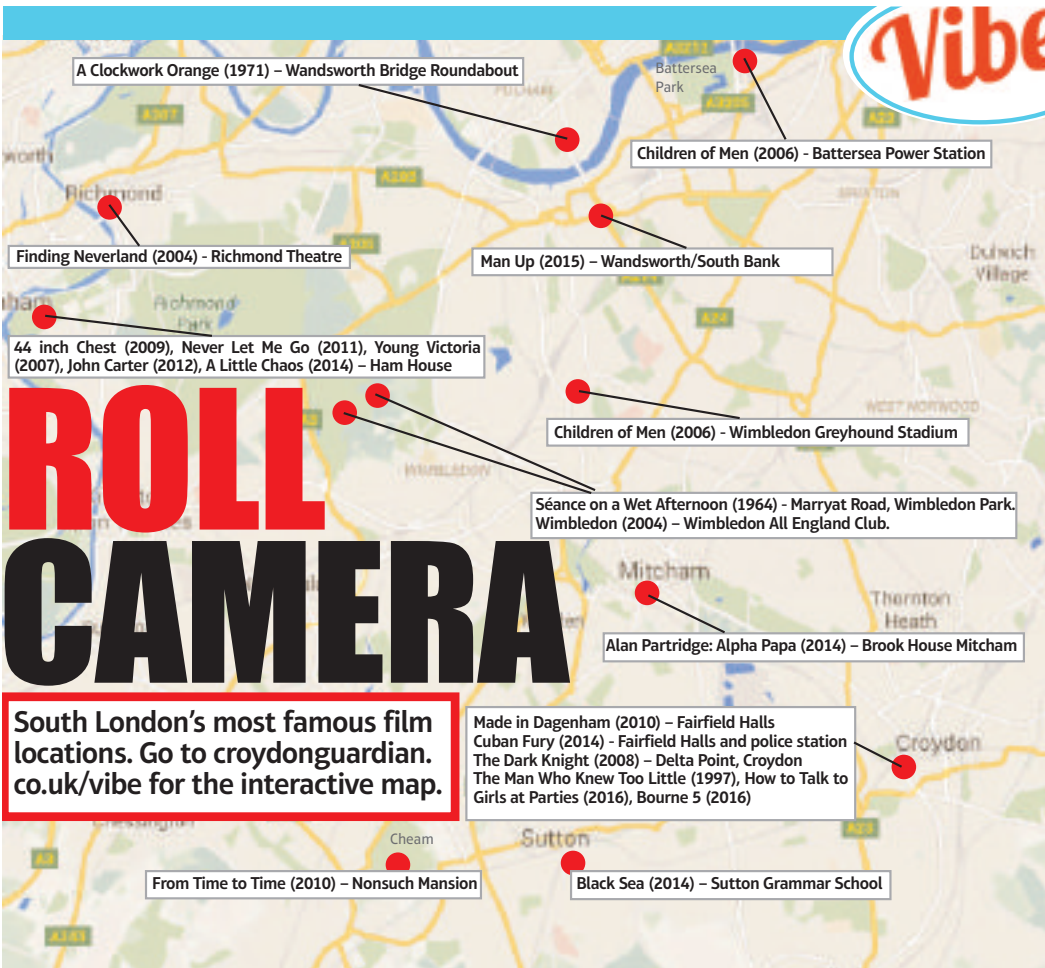
Recent struggles aside, Bisping recognises his opponent's

achievements too.

He said: "He is a legend of the sport, a longtime middleweight champion and a guy. Of course I wanted to fight him when he was the champion but this, for me, is the biggest fight outside of a world title."

And for Silva, the fight is also a great chance to connect with fans in this country. He said: "I fought in England for part of my career – I haven't fought there in a long time. The English fans are great, I'm very happy to come back."

UFC Fight Night is at The O2 on February 27. Go to axs.com for more information.



ROLL CAMERA

South London's most famous film locations. Go to croydonguardian.co.uk/vibe for the interactive map.

Film Locations:

- A Clockwork Orange (1971) – Wandsworth Bridge Roundabout
- Children of Men (2006) – Battersea Power Station
- Finding Neverland (2004) – Richmond Theatre
- Man Up (2015) – Wandsworth/South Bank
- 44 inch Chest (2009), Never Let Me Go (2011), Young Victoria (2007), John Carter (2012), A Little Chaos (2014) – Ham House
- Children of Men (2006) – Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium
- Séance on a Wet Afternoon (1964) – Marryat Road, Wimbledon Park
- Wimbledon (2004) – Wimbledon All England Club
- Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa (2014) – Brook House Mitcham
- Made in Dagenham (2010) – Fairfield Halls
- Cuban Fury (2014) – Fairfield Halls and police station
- The Dark Knight (2008) – Delta Point, Croydon
- The Man Who Knew Too Little (1997), How to Talk to Girls at Parties (2016), Bourne 5 (2016)
- From Time to Time (2010) – Nonsuch Mansion
- Black Sea (2014) – Sutton Grammar School

BRING ON BURNS NIGHT



Burns Ceilidh Night, from 7pm on Friday, January 15, at Portico Gallery, West Norwood: If you fancy dancing the night away to a bagpiper and some traditional highland tunes then get down to the Portico Gallery. There will be a Scottish orator reciting poems and plenty of whiskey, mulled wine and scrumpy to keep you going.

Traditional Robbie Burns Night, from 6.45pm on Friday, January 22, at The Chateau, Croydon South: This traditional night will include a haggis procession, where the haggis is paraded through the room preceded by bagpipes. There will be readings performed in true Scottish tradition and £5 of every ticket will be donated to charity. Tickets cost £28.50. Go to thechateau-restaurant.co.uk

Burns Night Dinner, from 7pm on Saturday, January 23, at Dukes Head, Putney: To honour Scotland's best loved bard, Dukes Head are dedicating a night in their restaurant to all things Scottish. Enjoy a 3 course meal for £32 per person and plenty of whiskey and Scottish scan. There will also be a Robert Burns tribute

act reciting the poets' greatest works. For further information go to dukesheadputney.com

Burns Night on Monday, January 25, at Loch Fyne, Cobham: For those courageous enough to brave the January temperatures in a kilt, Loch Fyne are offering an extra serving of whiskey to help keep you warm. Drawing on their Scottish roots, Loch Fyne will offer diners the traditional Burns Night experience. The menu includes traditional haggis, neeps and tatties. Tickets cost 24.95. Go to lochfyne-seafoodandgrill.co.uk

Burns Night at Hoots, from 9pm on Friday, January 24, at Hootenanny, Brixton: Hootenanny are serving up a storming pipes and drums night, with the Braveheart hairy men and kilts set to lift the roof off. Entry is free before 10pm or £4 after. For further information visit hootenannybrixton.co.uk

Burns Night Supper, from 7pm Saturday, January 30, at Unity Hall, Epsom: This event put on by the Epsom and Ewell Twinings Association will have traditional Scottish toasts and entertainment with Scottish music. Tickets cost £28. Go to epsomtwinning.com

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WONDERFUL WALKS

A weekend of free guided walks around London is being organised by Transport for London this weekend.

There will be 43 Winter Wanderers, led by experienced Walk London guides, in the capital on January 23 and 24.

A range of distances, difficulties and scenery are covered, including a Goodnight Mr Tom walk, Hidden Alleyways and Courtyards, A Might River and a Royal Park around Richmond, Animal I-Spy, London's Hidden Gems and Seafaring London from Tower Bridge to Greenwich.

TfL's director of surface strategy and planning, Ben Plowden said: "We hope that through these free guided walks people will see how easy, quick and enjoyable it can be to walk around this vibrant city."

"From our new Walking Tube map to Legible London wayfinding signs and our pedestrian safety action plan, we're committed to making London the most walkable city in the world."

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Nine ways to make your house deposit go further...

If saving tens of thousands of pounds feels like a daunting prospect, you aren't alone. We asked the Money Advice Service to share some of the ways you can boost the value of your deposit.

Apply for a Help to Buy loan: If you're buying a new build, you can apply for a Help to Buy loan of up to 20 per cent of the property value. The first five years are interest free, and after that a yearly fee kicks in. You don't even need to be a first time buyer to take advantage of this scheme, but you do need to have a five per cent deposit saved up, and the house you're buying must be your only home.

Increase your options with a Help to Buy mortgage: Alternatively you can apply for a Help to Buy mortgage, where the government guarantees the mortgage lender 15 per cent of the property price if you default. Again you'll need a five per cent deposit yourself. If you visit onthemarket.com then you can find out everything you need to know about both Help to Buy schemes.

Save in a Help to Buy ISA: You'll be able to save a maximum of £200 a month into the ISA. Once you reach £12,000 (or before) you'll be able to

get a 25 per cent return tax-free. So if you save the maximum amount, it's a bonus of £3,000.

Shared ownership: This scheme lets you buy part of a property and pay rent on the rest, bringing down the size of the deposit you need.

Priority is given to anyone who rents a council or housing association property, though each authority will have different conditions.

Buy with someone else: It doesn't have to be a partner or family member. Buying with friends can mean you can all save up quicker to get the required deposit. Just make sure you talk about what happens if one of you wants to sell their share.

Buy somewhere cheaper: You might find your dream location is just too expensive. If you can find a cheaper property, you'll either be able to buy it sooner with the

deposit you already have, or keep saving for a little longer to get a better mortgage deal.

Maximise your interest: If you're saving the maximum amount in the Help to Buy ISA, make sure the rest of the money you save isn't just sitting in your bank account. There's a lot of competition among current accounts right now, meaning it's possible to get as much as five per cent interest on your savings. There are restrictions with these, so make sure you read the Ts and Cs.

Don't forget the other costs: Even if you are able to boost the size of your deposit, don't stop saving. You'll need to make sure you can afford mortgage fees, Stamp Duty, moving costs and day to day maintenance of your new home.

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What's new: The new Lexus RX is a new flagship for the brand. It's a hybrid SUV (though it can be bought with a plain petrol engine) with an emphasis on comfort and easy driving, something that Lexus is very good at. This has historically been a key model for the company - ever since the first generation reached British roads in 1998, it's been an upmarket accessory for the well-to-do. Lexus has overhauled the NX, giving it an extra five per cent power and torque and improving its interior and exterior design. The result is a highly likeable - albeit expensive - premium SUV.

Looks and image: It's striking, to say the least. Angular, almost jaunty lines are now part of the Lexus design language. Design features such as the "floating roof" (blackened rear pillars) distinguish it from other SUVs.

Space and practicality: It's an SUV and generally performs adequately in terms of space. The front is indulgently large, with acres of leather in medium-to-upper trim levels. In the back is a different story though - headroom is limited in the rear seats. Lexus has added 24.4mm of legroom in the front and 22mm in the back, but the low roofline compromises second-row passenger comfort. The boot is 453 litres with



ON THE ROAD: Lexus RX 450h hybrid

the seats up, extending to 924 with the boot folded.

Oddment boxes in the passenger compartment are numerous. The cupholder's capacity is adjustable and can be altered to securely hold any reasonable size of beverage. In a cavity behind the switchgear is a wireless phone charging area.

Behind the wheel: A head-up display, the largest of its type currently on the market, beams important information (such as speed and

cruise control settings) onto the windscreen within the driver's field of vision. The instrument binnacle shows a wide range of economy-related statistics, meaning that those wanting to get the most mileage (and lowest emissions) from their car can do so easily. This isn't a driver's car - the emphasis is on smooth, comfortable progress.

That said, the driving experience of the RX has been sharpened up. Steering response is good, with

pleasing weight in the corners and 30 different damping force levels - a versatile suspension system. Noise and vibration levels have been reduced using insulation, but the engine note (of the large V6 engine, producing 259bhp and 335Nm of torque) is augmented, allowing an impression of performance to reach the cabin.

The same goes for the 'flappy paddle' gearbox. The engine responds to the throttle in order to



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Lexus RX 450h hybrid, from £46,995

Engine: 3.5-litre V6 petrol with electric motor
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Performance: 0-62mph in 7.7 seconds, top speed 124mph
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supply the correct amount of torque, but if you think you know better (you don't) you can "change up" or "change down". All this really does is alter the engine note at the cost of performance, but some will be reassured by this gimmick.

In the 200t, the 2.0-litre turbo petrol version, the powertrain is less powerful but more conventional. The six-speed auto is easy to use, though many drivers will be frustrated by its reluctance to make progress and opt to use the manual mode during acceleration. Different driving modes can be used to slightly tweak the powertrain and power steering. 'Eco' mode will have an impact on the climate control. The 200t's party piece is that the engine can switch between cycles - Atkinson for the most part, seamlessly switching to Otto when added power is needed. Beware though - driving this normally will result in fuel efficiency of 20mpg.



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Onslow-Cole's slow start to title defence

New Malden's Tom Onslow-Cole endured a miserable start to his A6 Class 24 Hours Series drivers' championship title defence in Dubai at the weekend.

The 28-year-old, *right*, was part of

the RAM Racing team – including regular partner Paul White and new boys Stuart Hall and Roald Goethe – that finished 11th.

The next race of the six race series is in Italy on March 18.



More sport: kingstonguardian.co.uk



Emerging star: Quins back row star Jack Clifford touches down against Cardiff Blues on Sunday

Clifford's known to Jones now

Eddie Jones knew nothing about Surbiton rugby player Jack Clifford when he took the England head coach's job in December, but he does now, *writes Stuart Amos*

The 22-year-old back row heads a six-strong contingent of Harlequins stars in Jones' first senior England squad preparing for the Six Nations, with resurgent winger Marland Yarde recalled and Chris Robshaw, Mike Brown, Danny Care and Joe Marler all retained.

And having caught up with every Premiership and European Champions Cup match on video this season, Jones believes he has the potential to become an England great in the mould of New Zealand hero Rodney So'oialo.

"His best position is definitely number eight, but we may have to start him off as seven," he said.

"Rodney So'oialo started off as a seven and he ended up a pretty handy number eight.

"If Clifford turns out as good as him, we'll be pretty happy.

"He has got great acceleration and is just a good rugby player. He does the simple things well. He is only a kid at the moment and has physical power.

"He has been a revelation. When you watch him play you don't need to know anything about rugby to know he is a good player."

Clifford celebrated his call-up with a try in front of England forwards coach Steve Borthwick during his side's 34-26 European Challenge Cup win over Cardiff Blues at the Stoop on Sunday.

"He is an outstanding rugby player. He is so explosive and has a point of difference," added Quins director of rugby Conor O'Shea.

RETURNING HERO: McCollin would only have come back to Ks

Andre comes home

SPORTS EDITOR
STUART AMOS

samos@london.newsquest.co.uk

Hampton & Richmond Borough might have come sniffing, but there was only one club Andre McCollin was going to sign for when he quit Cray Wanderers last week.

The 30-year-old put pen to paper on a deal to return to Kingstonian on Friday and celebrated by scoring a double in a 3-1 win at Burgess Hill Town to end a run of four straight defeats for boss Tommy Williams' men.

McCollin's movements have been tracked by former Ks chief Alan Dowson, but despite holding talks with the Beavers boss the prolific frontman only had Ks on his mind.

"I had to get out of Cray. The team was not playing a style that suited me and the league was so poor," he said.

"The only reason I joined them was because they offered me a job coaching in schools as well as football.

"I'm getting on a bit so have to start thinking of a future path away from playing football.

"But the job never happened, so we agreed to tear up my contract.

"I spoke to Alan Dowson – who has been ringing me every three weeks anyway – but his budget is up to its maximum.

"To be honest, if it came to a straight choice between Hampton and Ks, it would always be Ks.

"The board, the team, the management and the fans are great.

"It is my home and I'm really happy to be back."

McCollin, who has backed himself to score at least 10 goals in Kingstonian's 19 remaining Ryman Premier League games, is relishing the club's push



Welcome back: Striker Andre McCollin returned to Ks on Friday at the expense of Aaron Morgan, left, and Ricky Sappleton – released and loaned out respectively *Stuart Tree*

for promotion.

"When I look round the dressing room, there is a decent team here," he added.

"Some old faces who were here with me before, and some excellent new players.

"It is going to be good. It

feels right.

"If we can get through this period of sticky pitches, there is easily enough in the changing room to get into the play-offs."

Needham Market visit on Saturday.

Kingston's Turner completes rugby rehab



Cannonball: Amy Turner

Ex-Kingston RFC youngster Amy Turner completed her rugby rehabilitation by lifting the Women's Premiership title on Sunday, *writes Stuart Amos*.

The 31-year-old former England international was one of Richmond Ladies' stars as they beat Saracens 28-17 to claim a record ninth title.

Turner first played the

game as a five-year-old at Kingston and has won more than 50 caps for her country.

But she had been sidelined for two years prior to this term, having suffered a serious knee injury.

And Richmond head coach Karen Findlay admitted her return to a squad left decimated by departures at the start of the season, has been key to the team's

success this term.

"It has been a massive rebuilding job this season," she said.

"Amy suffered a horrific knee injury. She has been out for at least 18 months, having had her knee rebuilt.

"It has been great having her back in the fold and her experience has been a major part of what we have achieved."

THROWBACK: Guardian sport has a look at this week in 2011

Ks schoolboy makes the England cut

Kingstonian U18s defender Jamie Summers earned a call-up to the England Schools squad for the Centenary Shield, *writes Stuart Amos*.

The 18-year-old centre-back survived six trials to be named in the 18-man squad and was in line to make his first appearance in England's opening clash with Northern Ireland.

Former Glyn Technology School student

Summers left the country at the end of that season bound for Radford University in Virginia, where he has starred for the Radford Highlanders for the past four years.

The 2015 season saw his final campaign in the States, in which he scored seven goals in 20 starts for Radford as they reached the semi-finals of the Big South Tournament.

They were knocked out

in the first round of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Men's Soccer Championship 2-1 at Charlotte, North Carolina.

Summers' older brother Dan plays for Carshalton Athletic, having also turned out for Kingstonian and Tooting & Mitcham United.

Summers senior also spent time in America at Hartwick College and Syracuse University.



Back then: Ks U18s star Jamie Summers

SPORTSbrief

FOOTBALL: A Josh Uzun penalty and further goals from Shaun Okojie and Warren Morgan saw Corinthian Casuals put one over Ryman Division One South promotion rivals Faversham Town thanks to a 3-1 win on Saturday to leave boss James Bracken eyeing a return to the play-off places. Casuals are three points off the top five and already closing in on the club's record points haul, but Bracken wants plenty more. "Points totals are great, we made history in the FA Trophy which is great, but we want to get touching promotion. We want to actually achieve something," he said. Casuals head to South Park on Saturday. *Full story at kingstonguardian.co.uk/sport*

HOCKEY: Surbiton Hockey Club's men won the Super Sixes Indoor Hockey Championship Division One title in Bristol on Sunday, but fell one game short of a clean-sweep of eight victories. In their final match, Team Bath Buccaneers raced into a 3-0 half-time lead and, although Dave Beckett hit his 22nd and 23rd goals of the competition, the west country outfit held on to win 4-2 to earn promotion to the Premier League behind table-topping Surbiton. The men return to MHL Premier Division action with the visit of Brooklands MU on February 6 with the club's women resuming their outdoor campaign on the same day at the University of Birmingham.

ATHLETICS: Bushy Park parkrun regular Anthony Jackson led Stragglers Running Club home to a first Surrey Men's Cross Country League Division Three match win of the season on Saturday. Jackson clocked 30 minutes 45 seconds to finish second in Oxshot Woods – only three seconds behind race winner Holland Sports' Josh Knight. Stragglers' Paul Cheetham (31:35), Oliver Garner (32:09) and Paul Bowden (32:32) all claimed top 10 finishes. Kingston & Polytechnic Harriers claimed second placed, with Tom Pinder (33:14) their leading athlete in 15th position. The two clubs are riding high in the divisional standings with one match remaining next month.

RUGBY UNION: Old Emanuel hit the dizzy heights of Surrey Division One mid-table with a 36-13 win at Law Society on Saturday. The New Malden-based club have won six of their past eight games to sit 13 points adrift of leaders Old Freemans with seven matches remaining. Kingston's miserable season continued with a 52-10 home defeat to Old Cranleighans. *FIXTURES:* Old Emanuel v Old Paulines, Kingston v Old Wellingtonians.

ATHLETICS: Kingston & Polytechnic Harrier Matthew Houlden leapt 14.49 metres to finish fourth in the senior men's triple jump during the South of England Indoor Championships at Lee Valley over the weekend.



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